

# The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

Number 63—Vol. VI.

Sixth Year

Chicago, October 1901.

## From Martyr Lips.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and children—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." Closing words of Lincoln's second inaugural.

"God reigns and the government at Washington still lives." Garfield when Lincoln died.

"I have faith." "It is leaving you that hurts most." "If it is God's will, so be it." President Garfield's last words.

"Good-bye, all; good-bye. It is God's way. His will be done." President McKinley's last words. "Let no one hurt him." President McKinley's protest against the attempt to lynch his assassin.

## Issues at Stake in Legislating Against Anarchism.

By GRAHAM TAYLOR.

To hedge the lives of our public officials with what protecting divinity the law can provide, is the duty of the nation not only to them but to itself. For such a blow as has fallen upon all our hearts is struck at the sovereignty of The People. Between this duty of the hour and the "Lese majeste" which is making German Imperialism oppressive at home and ridiculous abroad, American common sense ought to be sufficient to discriminate. President Roosevelt has already shown enough of it, in any event, not to place such dependence upon the efficacy of legislation to this end, as would lend his influence to the manifest tendency to carry it to extremes. To have lost by assassination three such presidents as Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley within the life-time of a single generation is a national experience that is sure to make it more justly dangerous to attack, or conspire against, the life of a public official.

To reaffirm and vindicate the supremacy of law is the second issue at stake. But this lies less within the province of legislation than with the spirit of the people. "The recovery of Law" was not long ago affirmed to be "the task of the twen-

tieth century," by an eminent educator and publicist. To recover it from the fanatical attacks of its few avowed enemies, may prove to be a less serious task than to defend it from the wounds it is receiving in the house of very many of its most loudly professing friends. Who can measure the effect of the widespread contempt for the rights of life under the law, shown by the 2,516 illegal executions by the most atrocious mob violence, which, during the past sixteen years, have stained the soil of every one of the United States, except five?

The law-breakers share their treasonableness with the law-makers. For the open, defiant violations of the law are self-corrective when justly punished. But incalculably more aggressive upon the law abiding spirit of the vast majority of our people, is the perversion of the law-making power to serve the interest of the few at the expense of the many. Special class legislation has been so freely "sown to the wind" by many a state legislature and city or town council that it was sure to "reap the whirlwind." The notoriously corrupt practices of the justices of the peace and the police courts in all our greater and many of our smaller cities, have placed the whole process of law at a fearful disadvantage just where the common people have their only personal point of contact with it. Indeed their almost unbroken loyalty to law, in spite of these heavy strains upon it, is the wonder of those who best know the facts.

Naturally now in this hour of the nations' righteous indignation not only are hot-headed bids made for lynch law, but cooler demands come, from more responsible quarters, to supercede the civil law by the "Military Code." To suggest this at such a time is like moving a vote of lack of confidence in the common law itself, or in the ability of government to execute it. All such recourse to extra legal measures may be extenuated by the justly agitated state of public opinion. But the calm reliance upon the majesty of the law and the stern front against anarchistic methods of dealing with Anarchism will shortly be regarded simply as sanity, however, for the time being it is branded as "social sentimentality," if not "apologetic" for heinous crime, by those who ought, and, in the judgement of charity, will yet

be ashamed of themselves for such reckless accusations.

To conserve the people's hard earned, long awaited liberty of thought and freedom of speech in the face of the too passionate, panic-stricken demand for the most drastic legislation against anarchism, will tax the vigilance and power of the really conservative element in every legislative body and in the constituency of every legislator. Any special class legislation is dangerous enough to the community, in its liability to be applied at random to general interests after the specific needs that call it into existence have been met. The very freedom of the English working classes was imperiled for half a century by such a perversion of the "Conspiracy" laws to apply to the "restraint of trade." There is graver danger that the impending legislation, aimed to silence the incendiary utterance of the infinitesimally small faction of fanatics among the American people, may constitute a precedent, if it does not itself ever prove applicable, for the abridgement of that "right of private judgment" and that freedom of speech upon which more than upon anything else our religious and civil liberties and social progress depend. While therefore the Anarchists may justly be required to choose between respecting the rights of the great majorities who choose to live under law, or to betake themselves where law does not obtain, yet the people should be on guard lest the liberties dearly bought by the best blood and treasure of the Anglo-Saxon race after a thousand years of struggle should be imperiled by the power invoked at the awful deed of a crazy fanatic, and applicable at most to a few scores of sympathizers, and a few hundred more who dream of "voluntary association" as a substitute for coercive law in the ultimate ideal society.

### The Attitude of Settlements Toward Radicalism.

[Editorial]

The severe strictures of one of the Chicago papers upon Hull House and Chicago Commons for having had anything whatever to do with any one claiming to be an "Anarchist," is based upon such a manifest misapprehension of facts that it calls for a word of explanation.

In the report of the "Committee of Fifteen" upon the moral condition and social needs of New York City, it is shown that much harm to the common welfare and not a little menace to public safety come from the lack of provision for social centers, where all classes of the people

may freely meet and mingle to learn how to live and act together. In summarizing the most exhaustive reports that have ever been made of the actual provision for the social necessities of the people in ten of the principal American cities, Dr. Raymond Calkins affirms that the Social Settlements "possess a knowledge of the field not possessed or obtainable by any others than actual residents and trained observers." They have he adds "a habit of mind which precludes the possibility of any taint of patronage in their several undertakings." And he sums up his recognition of their very real and unique service by attributing their influence to the fact that "the settlement no matter of what name or kind, realizes the ideal of a social democracy."

Now to attempt to promote the social unification of the cosmopolitan, and often seriously divided population of our great cities, the settlements must have a broad enough basis and a tolerant enough spirit to bring about the confidence and co-operation of all the people, regardless of nationality, sect, party and social or economic distinction. The frank and practical recognition of social equality has been found to be an indispensable prerequisite. All have been welcomed. None have been ostracised or slighted. Among the many people of many minds who share this all too rare hospitality a very few are so extreme in their individualism as to avow Anarchism as their ideal of social order. But in meeting and comparing views with many of widely differing theories on industrial, economic, political, social, ethical and religious interests, these people who have been dreaming alone or only with each other, find their "voluntary association" often for the first time, to be only one of many competing social ideals. They are confronted by the Socialists with their opposite ideal for the extension of the sovereignty of the State. They are laughed at as visionaries by the trades unionists who have little sympathy with either of these opposite extremes. They are taken seriously by those who have studied their history and philosophy, and reasoned with personally. If, as only rarely happens, one of them privately defends the use of violence the wrong and folly of it are urged upon him. In six years of "free-floor discussions" held weekly at Chicago Commons, appeals to violence have never been publicly offered. When ever casual allusion has been made to it, the crowd has never taken the speaker seriously and laughed, or argued it away. Not a few anarchists have denounced the resort to force, among them some of the men recently arrested as "suspects." In the give and take of this unfettered fellow-

ship the conservative has the same right and opportunity to maintain his convictions as the radical, the lawyer as the anarchist, the manufacturer as the trades unionist, the churchman as the secularist. Only twice during these six years has the chairman had any occasion to appeal to the house against the interruption of the speaker. Perfect order has been maintained, un-failing good nature has held sway.

Now, it is confidently submitted, that no harm and very much good comes from such a wisely tolerant freedom of intercourse, and that it would be a very great blunder to deprive of it just those who need it most. To drive them behind their own closed doors either by social ostracism or drastic legislation would put a premium upon secrecy; would magnify their ego-mania which is minimized by contact with other and opposing views; would tend to compact their organization, which is otherwise very loose; and would tend to drive their intense individualism into conspiracy. In supplying this safety-valve, the settlements risk being misunderstood and misinterpreted. Some of them have not escaped the abuse inflicted by those who editorially attributed the interpretation of radical opinion, drawn out by their own interviewer, to be the personal belief of the interpreter. For merely gaining access to the accused in order to offer to help them obtain legal counsel, two settlement workers were accused of being "Apologists for Anarchists." Against the charge of the prisoners' friends that they were being deprived of their rights, was it not loyalty to Law to assure them "all the law allows?" Until proven at least probably guilty of the awful charge of which they were accused, had they forfeited all claims upon those who knew them as men, even though avowed opponents to their views? (See Note at conclusion.)

Unless human nature has ceased to react and the Christian spirit is false, we submit this to be "the more excellent way" to supplement the restraints of law and obviate the resort to force, to say nothing of it as the only way of really counteracting the ever active propaganda. A similar friendly conference was publicly maintained for a winter or more several years ago by Lyman J. Gage and other public spirited citizens of the great value of which to very many people of differing views there is still much evidence.

This liberty of discussion should never be allowed to run into license. The best preventive is to avoid organizing the free-floor meeting, if any such feature is maintained. Let it start and

continue as a simple conference of friends. The settlement should supply its share of topics and speakers and keep the chairmanship in its own hands. The chair should be filled by a firm, tolerant, brotherly spirited man, who personally knows the men participating. Parliamentary procedure should be freely followed. If such conditions of success are not at hand the settlement should not initiate, or should abandon such a gathering. Such an occasion, if it exists, is however only an incident in the attitude of the settlement toward radical or other views of life. Its group of residents, however diverse their individual opinions, should serve as a social "clearing house," through whom all classes may meet, mingle, exchange values and learn the art of living and working together.

#### Note

\*Since writing the above an unexpectedly complete and final vindication has been given to these views and efforts by the solemn judgment of the Superior Court of Cook County.

In the hearing that has just finished (as we go to press) before Judge Chetlain on a suit of habeas corpus, all the citizens of Chicago arrested as suspect conspirators have been unconditionally released. And this upon the motion of the City Attorney setting forth that no legal evidence existed against the Anarchists of Chicago that would point toward their complicity in the frightful crime committed at Buffalo.

When it is remembered that only a few years ago Chicago was noted as the hotbed of terrorist anarchy in the United States, the ameliorating influence of fellowship and free discussion such as Chicago Commons and Hull House have provided, can be in some measure estimated. If the intelligent citizens of Cleveland will meet with freedom, reason, and the spirit of a manly fellowship, their anarchistic fellow-citizens, they will save their fair city from the morbid type expressed in the dangerous personality of Czolgosz. Repression followed by a brooding bitterness over fancied injuries is the mother of terrorist anarchists. We unite with all intelligent citizens and officials of Chicago in a common satisfaction over this vindication of our city's name and fame.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 9.—The pupils of a young women's school, near Count Tolstoi's residence, at Yasnaia, who, with their teacher and other young persons of the neighborhood, called upon him and presented the Count with flowers, have been arrested and their teacher has been dismissed.

### An Effort for Incurable Poor.

By Mother M. Alphonsa Lathrop, Oblate St.  
Dominic, Rosary Hill Home.

I do not know that charity is ever looked upon as a pleasant pastime. It is usually taken with a large amount of seasoning, such as fairs, sewing-bees, church suppers, and all that sort

some of us would be very apt to say, that there were not certain conditions of sin which a long life brings to notice.

The subject about which I write, and which I would gladly make interesting to the general public, is one that can hardly be made agreeable; but, nevertheless, I can testify that such a life as I lead with a few companions in a poor



St. Rose Free Home for Incurable Cancer.

of thing; and even then the real work is done by persons at the seat of war, so to speak. When the idea is suggested, to people who do not even attend sewing-bees or affairs in aid of the poor, that one should diligently labor for the destitute in the worst condition of disease and want known, the response is one of genuine horror. It is sometimes said that there is no such condition of things, just as I fancy

district, among the sick, has many agreeable points.

#### NO DANGER TO HEALTH OR SAFETY.

There is absolutely no stifled air or loss of all particularly fine outlooks in going to work for the poor on the East Side of New York. The melancholy notion that in living among the poor one is in constant danger as to life and property has given place in our minds to considerable



doubt as to whether there is any really dangerous place where people can live.

I pass through the streets all around here, some of them with murderous reputations, and were I not alone I would laughingly discuss the wonderful neatness and quiet, and sufficiently patrolled condition, of these alarming streets. One house in which I lived, a tumble-down tenement, has its front door always ajar, and the windows of our rooms on the first floor were not locked until a nervous patient came to us.

#### HUMAN NOISES THE MOST TRYING FEATURE.

There is, of course, some difficulty to the nurses in exchanging a style of living which is orderly and comparatively quiet for the turmoil of a pauper district. I rank my sufferings in regard to noises with the other two trials of sleepiness not indulged in and weariness not rested. I really thought at one time that I should not be able to bear the constant uproar of the children and the midnight revels of the drunkards, but I must confess that I scarcely perceive now, after four years of what is called the noisiest street in New York, the rollicking or brawling racket always going on. It would seem that the human frame is really a slave whom it is possible to subject at every point and that the strength of the slave is herculean when once the creature is fully conquered.

#### THE YOKE WHICH IS EASY.

Somehow the determination to carry the work of charity on with completeness and adequate help to the poor is the dearest aim for any one who has once tasted the nectar of a self-denial which does not limit itself in idea, however weakly human nature cringes at some steps to be taken. I doubt if any district nurse, or nurse in a hospital in a poor district, who has laid out for herself a plan at all in keeping with the commands of the New Testament, would feel so much at ease in her old surroundings of rest and amusement as under the yoke of charitable labor.

#### TOKENS OF REMEMBRANCE FROM THE BRIGHTER WORLD.

Nevertheless, the glimpses of friends which she gets, through their generous pilgrimages over unfamiliar streets in order to see her and cheer her, are like refreshing draughts on a long journey afoot. The postman's budget of letters is beautiful with handwriting that is precious, and the words of encouragement brought by mail or spoken during a rapid call are found simply indispensable to her courage. It must also be noted that the humble appreciation and cordiality of the poor,

sometimes awkward, sometimes refined and beautiful because of the naturally gentle nature of many of the poor, are a very sweet daily element in district work.

#### ROOM FOR NEW CHARITY.

In regard to starting a new charity, there is an opinion prevalent that nothing will be met with but discouragement from those who are expected to be charitable. A very rich man has not only his city and country house, perhaps somewhat multiplied also, but he will be sure to tell you that he has two hospitals on his hands. In short, an Egyptian hieroglyphic of one of the Pharaohs is the only thing that could illustrate his hampered condition. You are told that the well-to-do have spent their pin money upon the foreign missions, and that in a year's time you will cease to exist as a new charity. The fact is, that a new charity which is as much needed as that dealing with orphans, a charity dealing with women destitute of care and unable to support themselves, yet in the grasp of a terrible disease, is responded to with the depth of cordiality which greets a call to arms if one's country is in danger, supposing the responder to be capable of nobility. The methods of securing aid and manipulating resources in charity are by no means as exquisitely finished and effective as those used in national defense, but let me prophesy that they will be one of these days.

#### WHO BEST MAY WITHDRAW TO SERVE.

The first thing to do, in my opinion, is for those who can best afford the time to give themselves to the labor of so perfecting the science of charity that it may become adequate, instead of being as it is at present, often ridiculously defective. Who are these members of the race who have the most time to give, and who will least be missed in withdrawing themselves from "the world," so called? They are women who have no indissoluble ties, and who have the good sense to realize that the life of an earnest woman, wherever she is, is one of suffering. They are the women who choose to do with less of the ameliorations of life to this good end of nursing destitute women, which I have stated to be, in my opinion, of equal importance with patriotism.

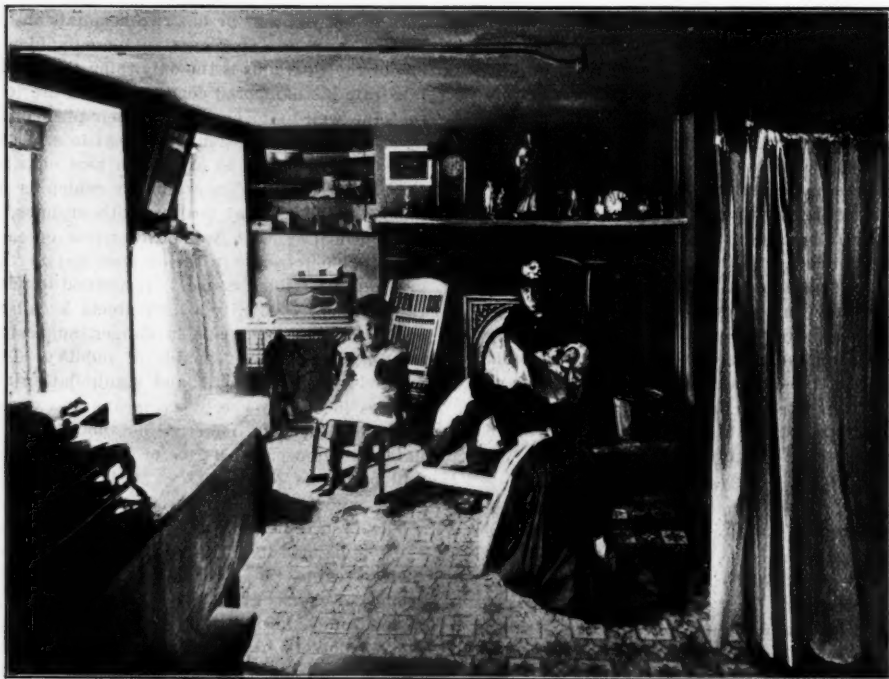
#### APPEAL OF INCURABLE CANCER SUFFERERS.

I was informed about a French charity which takes care in a number of hospitals, both in France and England, of incurable cancer patients. I was told that in America these incurable cases, when destitute, are terribly neglected; and, if attended to at all, are dismissed from hospitals after six months, whether death

soon steps in as a relief or years of suffering must ensue. I felt that, as I had time to give to charity, this was the charity I would take up, in the hope of assisting to repeat here the success of the charity in France. Doctors told me that there was great need of the work, as a large number of cases existed among the poor and were increasing constantly. Most of my friends begged me not to enter into such a loathsome occupation. I persisted; took a few

#### SHARING THE CONDITIONS OF POVERTY.

Our peculiar trait will be, that we dwell closely among the poor, sharing as much as possible, if the expression can be permitted, their deprivations, and also their cold and heat, their laborious effort to exist, and their old-fashioned harshness of conveniences, in order that these things may be remembered and done away with. We trust that our own laborious effort will help to elucidate the difficult question of



Relief Room—Cherry Street House.

rooms in the poorest district; immediately found myself appealed to by persons afflicted with the disease; soon had several patients living with me in my little rooms, and was joined by a few women as interested as myself in the scheme.

#### AFTER FIVE YEARS.

At the end of five years I find myself more strenuously encouraged by the sympathy of others than at the beginning of my work. Once in awhile I fortify my finances by appeals in the daily press for money, clothing and medicines for the sick we care for, and immediately there is a moderate response from charitable persons.

how a charity hospital may be a kindly home.

As soon as a woman is incapacitated for self support she should be given a home by those who are capable of giving it to her; and that home should not be a travesty, but worthy of the sacred name.

We have no object in life but to supply this need, in one line of its outreaching growth from the central root of destitution; and as women never turn aside from misery without assisting it, and as we have hundreds of letters from men and women which express entire enthusiasm for our budding endeavor, we believe that both women's work and men's money will enrich this charity for the immediate help of destitute souls.

## ST. ROSE'S FREE HOME IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.

We have been able to secure and entirely pay for a nice house, St. Rose's Free Home, at 426 Cherry street, New York, and when the last payment was made we instantly proceeded to secure another home, into which male patients could also be received. This second piece of property had to be found in the country, as city property required a large immediate consignment towards the full purchase.

## ROSARY HILL HOME IN THE COUNTRY.

Sherman Park, Westchester County, N. Y., contained a wooden monastery, which French Dominicans desired to sell, and this building has been bought, after that fabulous fashion which is sanctioned by a heavy mortgage. In very brief time our first group of patients for the second home were collected, a male patient being among them, and we are now cheerfully carrying on a farm hospital, in a superb region of hills and bracing air, with fourteen poor, delighted, cancerous sick people to nurse, and seven of us nurses detached from the little city home to work in this big branch from a very young tree.

## SONG OF CONTENT.

If we were not now Dominican religious we should be singing like birds in the foliage, but our contented hearts are satisfied with a few peals of laughter during "recreation," and with the countless beloved Paters and Aves, which we say either in unison, or in a whisper, as we work. We have spread out into two homes, to be sure, and hope for fifty patients at a time during the winter, but we have almost no money.

## SHADOW OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT.

That side of the problem is its perpetual shadow, nor can a bright light be free from it. We are willing to bear the anxiety if the public will bear the expense, and we think they will. Our work in our home and outside of it has cost us about \$5,000 a year, with the real estate purchase. Now we shall need \$10,000.00 a year for both homes, though they are carried on with entire simplicity, since our patients are principally of the destitute class, and all are destitute in present circumstances. No money comes to us from them, but they pray for us, that it may come.

Neperau P. O., Sherman Park, N. Y.

**Mr. Gossard and His Work.**

By FRANCIS W. WHEELER.

A large bare room in one of the crowded districts of Chicago, half filled with the sauntering,

bent, frowsy figures of saloon habitues; lists of places where work may be obtained pasted upon the wall; and at one end of the room a small table at which is seated a young man, well-dressed, keen, aggressive, business to his finger tips. To him one by one come the men, each with his story, each seeking help. Woe to the man who tells a fable rather than the truth, for a few searching questions demolish his sand founded structure; but to him who needs work, work will be given, and if he has no place to sleep a room is provided free until he is able to pay, and meals are likewise given, always with the condition that self support must come within a few days.

A strange picture? Utopian, perhaps? Some prophecy? No! An assured fact, a living reality, a sociological feature of Chicago life which is pregnant with future greatness. If, as Leigh Hunt has voiced, the tribe of Abou Ben Adhem may be desired to increase, surely in this stalwart champion of work "as one who loves his fellow men," the race will receive a new impetus.

SO MUCH FOR THE PICTURE. NOW FOR THE MAN.

Mr. J. W. Gossard is a wealthy importer of Chicago who has earned for himself a place among the successful business men of the great metropolis. Entering life with no other capital than a keen American commercial spirit he is already, though quite a young man, sufficiently possessed of this world's goods not to greatly miss the expenditure of several thousand dollars, in purposes which he refuses to call either charitable or philanthropic but which are the best of both.

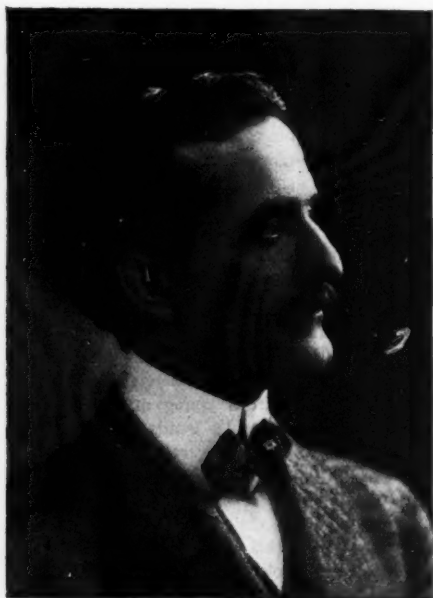
Having attained this desirable position, Mr. Gossard next undertook to solve the problem which has puzzled the world's greatest thinkers in all cycles of history. This is the problem—how to manipulate the affairs of modern life that there need not be any men unemployed, and that every man employed may earn sufficient to keep himself and an average family. It is a large question, and its solution is only to be found by experiment.

The first great desideratum for the solution of this complex problem was, evidently, the time needed for its consideration. With keen insight, and withal such a touch of the common sense which has made all his ventures throughout so successful, Mr. Gossard decided that no man could do two things at the same time, and do both well. His business was flourishing, and therefore he decided in taking up the work of helping those who had been less successful than himself, to give one day a week to that work, and that alone, and that upon this certain day he would not

even consider the affairs of his mercantile business no matter how dire the need.

#### ONE SEVENTH OF HIS TIME.

Here then was the first step. A man, competent to handle a large business, of marked ability in the reading of character, wealthy enough to be able to sink a little money in the furtherance of his designs, was willing to give absolutely one seventh of his time to aiding others. The First Ward of the city, which contains the levee, one of the worst districts, and which, by the way,



W. J. Gossard.

was the section taken by W. T. Stead in his notorious work as an example of what Chicago at its worst could be, was chosen for the beginning of work.

The first two or three weeks were given to visiting the saloons and the dives in the district, and wherever Mr. Gossard saw a man drunk or going to the dogs who appeared to have some manhood left in him he went up to the man personally and by careful talking led him along the desired lines. Before a month had passed there were a number of these men well on the way to self respect.

Soon the number of men grew too large to be handled personally and the inevitable result was that a hall was hired and the personal talks developed into a course of lectures. These were upon the most simple and needful subjects, such

for instance as "How to take a bath," "How to get a job and hold it," "Food values," "What is a lady and a gentleman in the American sense of the term" and so forth. These were addresses by Mr. Gossard and generally also by some expert upon the topic under discussion. Nearly a dozen of the most eminent medical men in Chicago gave their services in the form of these lectures, and the hall was crowded every Thursday evening.

The movement grew. At the close of these lessons more men came up and announced their readiness to leave the old ways if they could be helped to obtain employment. This evident need that the men after being reclaimed from sodden ways should be set to work, was the cause of the institution of a free employment agency, which has already been the means of providing a large number of men with positions.

#### THE H. P. E. SOCIETY.

So far the movement had been gradual. One other feature was introduced during the course of the lectures, and that was that every man taken in hand and set upon his feet again, should be required to become a member of the Higher Practical Education Society, known as the H. P. E. Society, and to that end must sign the pledge. This pledge was peculiar in that it needed two to sign it, firstly the man who was reforming, and secondly either an officer of the society or afterwards another member. Thus it happened that every man became responsible for someone else and the thought of the responsibility was a great aid in keeping the pledge inviolate.

The close of the lecture course marked the end of the second cycle. A number of men had become members of the society, had taken the pledge, and were being kept and provided for by their patron until a position should be ready for them through the employment agency.

#### THE FIRST SET-BACK.

Then came the first serious set-back. It was tolerably easy if a cook sought employment and there was employment for a cook to put the two together, but often it happened that the man who had been reclaimed either had no trade, or he was so out of touch with the work that he was almost useless, or else his trade was one in which few vacancies occurred.

#### HOW TO FIND EMPLOYMENT.

Work must be found for these men. The society must not be allowed to die because its own weight and strength was crippling it. Here was a force which should be able to keep in motion if only it could once be started in the right direction. But how to start it. The answer was not far to seek. If the society was responsible for these men the society must find employment, and if the agency was not sufficient for this purpose it



must give them work itself. The Salvation Army wood camps solved this question many years ago.

But the founder of the society was a business man who knew nothing of wood camps, or indeed of ought save commerce and its methods, and the line of development the society took under his hand was to form it into a company, the H. P. E. Company, which bought articles from the manufacturers and disposed of them direct to the consumer thus making the middlemen and the merchant's profit at the same time. The brighter men handled the work of disposing of lines of goods to the trade, the men of lesser ability went from house to house with samples of the goods canvassing and delivering. Thus, theoretically, every man who sought employment could be given it, and the profits of the goods sold would reimburse the society for the original money spent on each man and thus it became self supporting in some degree.

#### A DIFFICULTY NOT YET SOLVED.

But a difficulty arose, which to the present time has not yet been solved, and the solution of which means the final success or failure of the whole. This is the difficulty that every man is not a salesman by nature. It has been found to be a mistake that every man can go from house to house and sell goods, for less than half the men who need the work are so fitted. Many have not a sufficiently good appearance or address, others lack the commercial instinct, and others again have a feeling of personal pride which galls them every time they go to the back door. It is to be deplored, but facts which are to be deplored are the very things which most constantly confront the sociologist.

Then the men began to be dissatisfied. They found the work progressing but slowly, they found that the money they earned for the society was expended almost as much upon the bad salesman as upon the good and though like the husbandmen in the parable, they each acknowledged the justice of "every man a penny" they grumbled amongst themselves, and viewing human nature as it is rather than as it ought to be, they cannot be blamed.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the movement will prove an overwhelming success if sufficient perseverance, time and capital be given. A commercial business, equipped with all the most modern methods and the most efficient help, is a difficult thing to set going successfully, to which let the wrecks of small merchants testify, and in this day of competition it is the man with large ideas who goes to the front. It is easy to prophesy great things, and it is even easier to plan them, but to work the small details of small

things is beyond the power, very often, of the Napoleon of commerce.

#### EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

It is the intention of Mr. Gossard to open an employment agency in every ward of this city and in every ward of every city in the United States. It is designed to let the ministers of the cities be in close touch with the movement to the end that they may send all cases of need to these employment agencies. It is intended to purchase factories for the manufacture of the goods which are sold by the H. P. E. Company. It is then the intention to publish a large and well equipped magazine which shall not only deal with the work of the society and company but which shall be the organ of the Social Settlement work of the world.

But these must wait. Mr. Gossard has laid this fact down as a foundation, "That each branch and each root of the society must be self supporting and that no steps onward will be made, until each is so determined."

Such is the brief history, briefly told, of the work of the H. P. E. Society of Chicago, and its work, such still more briefly sketched, is the personnel of the man at its head. Far more pleasant would have been the task simply to have told of all the good accomplished, to have painted glowing pictures of the future, to have described a winter at hand when every man would be laboring with satisfaction to himself and all the world, and to have ended in a pean of triumph, but much more important is it to know the exact condition and to show the difficulties as well as the golden deeds.

But under and above and through it all, whether the society rise to greater heights or share the doom of many another worthy movement, is the living growing, vital fact, that out of Chicago has arisen a young man of wealth, in whom it is a passion to do for others that which he would wish done for himself.

#### THE GOOD OF IT ALL.

Can any good come out of Nazareth? An old question, and the answer to it is yet the greatest force in the world to-day. Can any good come out of Chicago? A new question, and the answer to it is just beginning to appear. It may be that this is the dawn of some vast crystallization of the unused force of the unemployed reaching out and enfolding all its predecessors in its giant grasp, it may be that it will live its homely, useful life in its own little district acting as a beacon to guide others.

Final results, which can only be seen by the test of centuries of time, can perhaps decide which is the greater, Protestantism or the mother of

the first Reformer, the Sociological movement or its humblest disciple, and by this test alone shall it be seen what is the place that J. W. Gossard, and the members of his society bear in the scheme of the industrial salvation of the world. Not to the most successful is the greatest honor, but in the world of men equal honor must be given to every man and woman, who, standing for the principles of Godhood, Womanhood, and Manhood, lives, works and dies consecrated to their support.

### **Impressions of the Great Steel Strike.**

BY ONE STANDING NEAR BY.

In the first place, it puts to a severe test one's sense of the ridiculous to attempt to discuss the relations of the Billion-Dollar Steel Trust with anybody or anything from the standpoint of "right" or "merit." The genesis and record of that mighty solution of steel and water—its very existence, in fact—precludes the possibility of raising with any enthusiasm the question of morals in any of its bearings. So let us abandon buncombe about the matter. Between the United States Steel Corporation and its employees thus far no issue has been joined the discussion of which calls for the use of any vocabulary of abstract right or justice. To an unusual degree the battle is cleared of involved issues, and becomes largely one of brute force and dogged endurance—which can win?

It was foreordained, so to speak, that such a battle should ensue. The erection of a vast structure of capital under private ownership, the abolition practically of competition from a complete branch of industry, the removal of wasteful duplication of machinery, material and effort and the systematization of production and sale with reference to visible demand, made it inevitable that sooner or later there would be an attack upon the citadel of capitalism thus exposed. Rightly timed, shrewdly managed, and adequately supported by public sentiment through the existence of an issue clear and conclusive, it would seem that a strike against a single, closely-unified organization of an industry requiring so large a degree of skill on the part of so large a proportion of its force as does the manufacture of steel, must win at last.

But the strike that will win must have several sure characteristics. It must represent a principle which is not only right, but clear; and not

only clear, but right. Public sympathy is notoriously fickle and capricious, and can be held for a long struggle only by a firm and sustained appeal to what the average man's imagination and intelligence can readily grasp, his emotions cling to, and his self-interest recognize as in the last analysis his affair. Sympathy in large measure awaited the first great assault upon any of the great Trusts. Whether rightly or not, the people increasingly feel that these vast concentrations of power in private hands involve menace to the rights, and even to the fundamental liberties of the common people. They were ready to accept the first issue that should be raised. In the present battle thus far at least, the Trust has made rather the best appearance in the field, has succeeded in occupying (albeit by factitious means) the position of injured innocence, and the average man is still asking in bewilderment, after all this time of palaver and counter-claims, What is it all about?

The genius of fair play is still in the American shrine, though somewhat battered and shamed by reason of happenings connected with the conversion of the corners of the earth to thirteen-inch, breech-loading Christianity and strenuous civilization. And an appeal which is based upon a question of fair play will always command sympathy. It is a pity that the question of fair play, or some aspect of it, can hardly be found in the present contest. There is no question of wages, at least none immediately involved; nor of hours, nor of individual rights. There is no fundamental human appeal from wrong. There is no clearly-defined assault upon the Trust as a principle or an institution. The rallying-cries in this contest are those in which the average American never had interest, or if so, long since lost what he had.

Few things are clearer than that the single issue of "organized labor," however loudly shouted, will never again rally enthusiasm, even so much as it has rallied, in this country. Organization of labor, as an abstraction, needs no defense. In the self-consciousness of the laboring class, and in its action for its own recognized interests, and in large measure for the interests of all of us, to a great degree lie the hope and progress of the future. But no intensity of public interest responds, or will respond, to the effort to compel the Steel Trust or any other corporation to enforce unionism upon its employees. And it is not true that the Steel Corporation is attempting to overthrow the organization of labor in any

large sense. It is highly probable as a matter of fact, that Mr. Morgan, Mr. Schwab and their conferees would much prefer to deal with a responsible body representing their employees. They have indeed all but said so. But the trouble is that there is no such responsible body in existence. And the one juncture in which that responsibility might have appeared was the juncture which the organization selected as an opportune time to declare that agreements with this corporation were void as compared with their pledge to their organization.

The margin of unemployment, vast and increasing, on the whole, is too great to make possible an enforcement of any particular brand of unionism upon any large class of labor. The unemployed or casually employed laborer, holds the balance of power, and the battle against the "scab" by organized labor is the cutting of its own throat. The movement of labor in this country, and in the world, must be a Movement of Labor, and not a self-interested agitation by the Amalgamated This or the Federation of That or the Brotherhood of the Other. These organizations and their like have never been truly class organizations. Most of them have been more effective in behalf of the employer than of the men. They have kept Cerberus comparatively quiet with relatively insignificant sops while great issues slipped through from time to time between suspiciously greasy fingers. It will take some time, yet, and much suffering, too, to teach the workmen of the world that their interests are one and the same, and the present issue to this writer at least, involves no opportunity to make clear the common cause of Man against Property.

The final issue will demand well-laid plans, vast resources of loyalty and enthusiasm, and unparalleled leadership. None of them appear in the present conflict. Here is one who, passionately sympathetic with the wrongs and the aspirations of the laboring class, yet sees in this conjuncture no one of the characteristics which must be discoverable in the Great Struggle which yet shall come. If this strike "succeeds", why, well and good, though at best no point will have been gained worth what it will have cost. If it fails, it will have been a crime. A strike is civil war, and for civil war there must be for its justification a clear issue of right and lasting principle, the right time, and reasonable assurance of victory. To one sitting close by, with opportunities of hearing both sides and to some degree knowing the issues at first hand, all of these essentials seem to be lacking.

Pittsburg, Pa., September 10, 1901.

## *The Men of To-morrow.*

DR. FORBUSH'S CALL FOR BOY CONFERENCE.

The fifth General Conference about Boys under the auspices of the General Alliance of Workers With Boys, known as "The Men of To-morrow," will be held in Boston, Oct. 29 and 30. The special theme will be "The Boy and the Home." Among the topics and speakers will be: The Street Boy and his Home, by Jacob A. Riis; the Working Boy and his home, by a Y. M. C. A. leader; the School Boy and his home by Principal Endicott Peabody; The Kind of Home to Make the Right Sort of a Boy, by Prof. Francis G. Peabody of Harvard; The Home as a Factor in Social Work, by S. W. Dike, LL. D.; Child Saving Agencies and the Home by Hugh F. Fox, President of the N. J. Board of Children's Guardians; The Pastor and Boys by Rev. W. H. Culver, Boys' Pastor of the Jefferson Ave. Pres. Church, Detroit; The Neighborhood as a Center for Work with Boys by Ambrose Page of Haverhill, Mass.; and topics dealing with the village life, the recreations, the reading, etc., of boys by speakers to be announced later. Perhaps the most useful portion of the Conference will be the free forum for question, answer and discussion on the rationale and method of work with boys. The moving spirit of the Conference is Dr. William Byron Forbush of Winthrop Church, Boston, president of the Alliance and author of "The Boy Problem," to whom should be addressed inquiries.

The Conference is open to all. It is conducted on the self-entertaining plan. The sessions will be held in the Winthrop Church and the Bunker Hill Boys' Club Building in the Charlestown district, which are on adjoining streets and both very accessible from the hotels and railroads.

All the Improvement Societies of Cook County are invited to hold an all day public conference in Fullerton Hall, Art Institute, Chicago, to discuss civic improvements by private initiative in the morning and improvement by corporate action in the afternoon. In the evening Public School extension is to be considered and urged. Oct. 5.

## ENFORCE THE TENEMENT LAWS.

Has every settlement in this city copies of the codified tenement legislation of Chicago? Are residents and sanitary inspectors informed and do they endeavor to enforce the provisions of the statutes regarding old dwellings, rear tenements, and new flat buildings? There is probably no more important service the settlements can render humanity than in standing between ignorance and greed and the rights of the Home in the housing of this city's poor.

# The Commons.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - Editor.

Entered at Chicago Post Office as Second-Class Matter, and Published the first of every month from CHICAGO COMMONS, a Social Settlement at Grand Ave. & Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.

For particulars as to rates, terms of advertising, etc., see "Publisher's Corner."

## EDITORIAL.

The comradeship betokened by President McKinley's "Good bye all, good bye," is as exalted as the faith expressed in his reverential recognition, "It is God's way," and the uncomplaining, unrevenged courage of his soldierly obedience. "His will be done." What a pitiful parody on the term it is that the awful crime should have been committed by one who claims to be a "comrade!"

The interesting and unique experiment in help to self help by a Chicago business man enthusiastically reported in another column, has met with a surprising success, which however, time is yet to test. But even Time will have to reckon with the perseverance of a determined man who seems entirely willing to learn by experience and profit by his losses in his philanthropy as well as in his business. But in any event the significant fact in this and other enterprises of Social faith, is that such men are undertaking them.

Beneath her religious title readers of The Commons will recognize Rose Hawthorn Lathrop. It may be with surprise, or even shock, that some will discover Nathaniel Hawthorn's daughter to be devoting herself to what may seem to be the menial service of the helplessly poor, and repellently afflicted under the garb of the Dominican Order. If so, can they fail to see, gleaning all through her words, the light of her father's own idealism, which transfigured not only the most common experiences of ordinary life, but also its most ostracized disabilities and defaults with the glory that excelleth.

Her ministry to the "incurable poor" reminds one of the call to the lepers which Francis, that Saint of Saints, who belongs to us all, uttered in behalf of his Brothers Minor: "We are come to live among you and be your servants, and wash your sores, and make your lot less hard than it is. We only want to do as Christ bids us do. We are beggars, too, and we, too, have not where to lay our heads.

Christ sent us to you! Yes, Christ crucified, whose we are and whose you are. Be not wroth with us. We will help you if we can."

Surely those who do not go to such, should help send those who have gone—never to return from their service.

### Legal Responsibility of Trade Unions.

The complaint made in the article on the steel-workers strike, which we publish in this number, that there is no *responsible body* representing the employes with which the Steel Company may deal, raises a crucial question regarding the whole labor movement. How may labor organizations be made legally, as well as morally, responsible for the acts of their officers and members?

It is not the exception, but the rule we believe that the unions keep their formal agreements with their employers.

Such a spirit is, of course, a better guarantee than any legal sanction and penalty. Nevertheless combinations of capital exact of each other forfeiture to bind their bargains and are beginning to extend the exaction to the organizations of labor with which they consent to deal. The recent Taffe-Vale decision of the House of Lords, holding labor unions legally responsible for the acts of their members and officers and making their funds liable to suit for damages—is deeply agitating English Trades Unionism. Already suits for damages against the unions for losses entailed by "picketing" in time of strike, threaten their reserve funds. The British Labor Congress at Swansea, Wales, has just decided to test the legal definition of "picketing" and the extent to which it could be carried on without rendering the funds of the unions liable for damages. Without presuming upon the very imperfect knowledge of this decision yet obtainable in this country, or anticipating the full interpretation of it by a competent English authority which we expect soon to publish, we venture the opinion that some just and well-guarded legal responsibility must be accepted by Trades Unionism, if it is to be a party to that collective bargaining, which is the primary reason and value of its existence.

### Is there Any Competition with the Saloon as a Means of Sociality?

The Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem, is nearing the end of its long preliminary inquiry. During the eight years of its labors three of its four sub-committees have reported the results of their patient, painstaking search for facts. First "The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects," was presented in 1897 by Frederick H. Wines and John Koren, two of the most experienced and able statisticians of the country, under the auspices



of a committee headed by Presidents Eliot of Harvard and Seth Low of Columbia Universities.

Then John Koren, in 1899, finished his investigation of the "Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem," and it was published with the authorization of Carroll D. Wright, Prof. Henry W. Farnam, Warden Z. R. Brockway of Elmira Reformatory, Prof. John Graham Brooks, Dr. E. R. L. Gould and Prof. J. F. Jones.

Now comes the third volume, which is of the most direct interest and value to those engaged in social service. It is to be followed soon by a fourth on the results of the chemical analyses and pathological researches of the sub-committee on Physiological aspects. On the bases of these four reports, setting forth "a body of verifiable truth," the sub-committee on Ethical aspects promises a fifth volume in which they will attempt to formulate some brief and general summary of the conclusions of the Committee of Fifty. This third volume of the series on "Substitutes for the Saloon," is issued under the direction of the last named sub-committee, consisting of Francis G. Peabody, professor of Ethics at Harvard, Dr. Gould, formerly of Johns Hopkin's, now president of the City Homes Association, of New York, and Prof. William M. Sloane. The late Charles Dudley Warner served on its membership from the beginning, until his death deprived the general committee and this group of one of their wisest and most actively interested associates.

No one man, or even as many men as composed the sub-committee, could have furnished the contents of this remarkable volume. For to it were contributed the personal observations of twenty-two investigators in sixteen of the principal American cities, while fifteen special contributions were added by men who had first-hand knowledge of the phases of the subject assigned them. Chicago Commons was gratified to be able to contribute Mr. Royal L. Melendy's report of his five months' investigation at Chicago, which was published in full in the American Journal of Sociology for November, 1900, and January, 1901, and was summarized in THE COMMONS for November 1900. It is copiously quoted in the text and appendix of the volume. The very difficult work of superintending these widely scattered investigations and of reducing their vast mass of data to readable form and practical inductions, has been extraordinarily well done by the Rev. Raymond Calkins, of Pittsfield, Mass., in the wonderfully brief compass of 300 pages.

With the special contributions to the valuable appendices, this remarkably comprehensive yet de-

tailed volume is of encyclopedic value upon the unique social data it presents. There is not only no source of information on the subjects which it covers that can compare with it, but there can be none, in the nature of the case, without an equal, if not greater outlay of expert toil and expense in gathering similar or additional facts. The liquor problem cannot be understood or stated, much less intelligently treated, by legislator, police, prohibitionist, moral suasion reformer, or personal worker for individuals, without squarely facing the facts and the substitutionary principles and methods exploited by this volume.

It deserves to be numbered among the very few volumes which may serve as hand-books for Social Settlement workers. To other lines of church, or social service, its use and suggestiveness will be found to be most helpfully adapted. Even experts in such problems as the housing of the industrial classes, popular education, the amusements and recreations of the people, and the social unification of our cosmopolitan populations, will find uniquely valuable discussions of such phases of these questions as are not presented elsewhere.

These five volumes will rank high not only among the original sources for the study of descriptive sociology, but as practical hand-books of reformatory, or, better still, formatory effort. —Houghton, Mifflin and Co. publish the series in the best form and at reasonable price. \$1.30.

#### **The Elements Needed to Create a Social Center**

"The absence of any time limit, some stimulus to self-expression, and a kind of personal feeling toward those into whose company one is thrown, which tempts one to put away reserve and enjoy their society. Where these three elements coexist, however imperfectly, they create a social center, a situation, that is, in which the social instincts find their natural expression.

The leisure problems equals in importance the labor problem, and surpasses it in difficulty.

If the enormous profit from the drink traffic could be diverted into the legitimate work of establishing centers of recreation for the people, an immense progress would be made towards social reform.

Men will not largely patronize a place where the feeling prevails that some one is doing something for them."—RAYMOND CALKINS in Substitutes for the Saloon.

Kindness—a language which the dumb can speak, and the deaf can understand.—Bovee.

## The Month at Chicago Commons

### NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The flag at half-mast, the mourning draperies and furl national colors, a large transparency and hand-bills scattered on the streets and in the houses, through the stores and the saloons were the invitations issued to the neighborhood to rally at Chicago Commons to pay the last tribute of patriotic loyalty to the memory of President McKinley. No assembly which ever gathered under the new roof has been as representative of all elements of our population as that which rallied by common consent and filled our auditorium. All nationalities, sects, parties, classes and conditions of the people were represented in the silent, serious, united throng. Voices of many tongues joined as best they could in singing the Christian hymns which the lamented President loved. The warden convened the assembly by reading President Roosevelt's proclamation. The story of William McKinley's life was simply told by Dwight Goddard of Massachusetts, who applied its lessons to the lives of all of us. Royal Loren Melendy of Colorado showed how the blow of the assassin was struck at the heart of the nation, chosen of God to establish democracy among men. Raymond Robins, recently of Alaska, now of Chicago Commons, gave notable expression to the loyalty to law, for which the common people, here as everywhere, are noted. The sympathy of foreign nations and the patriotism of the foreign elements of our country's citizenship was manfully voiced by Rev. James Mulenbach, new associate pastor of the Tabernacle. Words from the lips of the martyr presidents, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley were read by the chairman. All joined in "America," and each one went his own way a better American and more of a Christian.

### A LAST LIFT NEEDED.

The long stress and strain under which our Chicago Commons finances have struggled, ever since the double demand for building equipment and maintenance has taxed its generous constituency, will continue to embarrass the settlement work until the building is paid for. We need \$10,000 to enable us to enter the completed building without encumbrance upon it. We shall make every effort to achieve this result before the close of the year. Meanwhile the problem of providing for the maintenance of the work during the last three months of every year is one of the hardest we ever meet. This year it is obviously doubly difficult. Will not our friends, who have already given to the support of the work this

year, remember its final exigencies and help us meet it by additional gifts? The force of workers is more efficient than we have ever had. The response of the surrounding community is greater than ever before. The promise of reality and usefulness in the human service to be directly rendered the people about us and to influence reflexively other workers, far and wide, is such as has never before greeted the opening season's work. If those who are co-operating with Chicago Commons by supplying its financial support could share the satisfaction of those of us who are giving our lives, as well as our money, to it, they would believe with us that all it costs is well invested.

The annual illustrated survey of the progress and prospects of Chicago Commons will be presented in the December issue of *The Commons*. Friends will render valuable service, not only to this settlement but to the cause which all settlements serve, by helping us circulate the Chicago Commons Number of this journal among those who may thus be enlisted or made more efficient in social service. They will confer a favor by sending us in advance orders for as many copies as they can gratuitously circulate to advantage.

### WINTER'S SCHEDULE TO OPEN IN THE COMPLETED BUILDING.

Owing to the confusion incident to building operations and the consequent overcrowding of the finished wing, the complete winter's schedule of work cannot be put into operation until Nov. 1, when the new Residence Wing will be ready for use. The Kindergartens, Training School, many clubs and other settlement functions however open Oct. 1.

### QUARTERS FOR OLD COMMONS KINDERGARTEN.

We are so fortunate as to find just the quarters we need for continuing our kindergarten and other settlement work in the neighborhood of the Old Commons. Only a block away from the Union Street house, on the sunny side of the street, in the heart of the most densely crowded, poorest population of the river districts of our ward, we have leased for a year a double store on the first floor of 73 and 75 Grand Ave. The building is being thoroughly renovated, with new plaster, paint, plumbing and cement side-walk. The floor contains one large room about thirty-five feet square and two smaller rooms. The rental is \$24 per month, which with the expense of lighting, heating and care, and the cost of maintaining

the Kindergartners and supplying their material, will bring the amount needed to support our work there up to about \$125 per month. In this venture of faith for our old neighborhood, we depend upon the support of the friends of the neediest, and therefore re-open the work there September 30.

#### OUR MANUAL TRAINING EQUIPMENT ASSURED.

An old friend of Chicago Commons responded to our appeal last month by authorizing us to equip our manual training department without waiting for further subscriptions. This assures the opening of this branch of our work when the completion of the building permits us to start all our winter's work on Nov. 18. While this generous assurance of the balance needed equips us with tools and benches, and fulfils the condition upon which the competent trainer offered his services and residence gratuitously, we need the contribution of between \$25 and \$50 per month toward material that the poorest pupils may not be able to pay for and also to provide some instruction in the arts for which the girls are best adapted.

#### OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH.

The Tabernacle Church has had the privilege, the pleasure of which the residents of Chicago Commons have shared with its members, of the ministry and fellowship of Rev. Dwight Goddard all summer. His brotherly spirit, earnest words and manly ways of real service among us have left their mark for good on each and all. To his eastern home and work he carries hearts full of friendship and God-speed. His work in the Associate pastorate has already been taken up by Rev. James Mullenbach, who has just returned from two years of study in the University of Berlin, Germany, on the fellowship awarded him at his graduation from the Chicago Theological Seminary. Of his cordial welcome by the people of the church and the residents of the settlement he has already received abundant assurance. Professor E. T. Harper, of the Seminary has been elected Superintendent of the Tabernacle Sunday-school and assumed its leadership upon his return from his summer's study abroad.

#### GREETINGS TO THE OPENING SCHOOL YEAR.

Chicago Commons greets with heartfelt joy and the right hand of goodliest fellowship, the teachers of the Montifiori and Washington Schools as they return, with their troops of neighborhood children to brighten and better the life of our ward. We look upon them as our associates in the service of the people and extend to

them whatever privilege or use our new building may afford them.

To the new president, the professors and the students of the Chicago Theological Seminary we extend our greetings as they come back to their halls of learning and to the fraternal fellowship and service which they have ever extended both to the Tabernacle Church and Chicago Commons. To this and all the other professional schools and universities the settlement extends all its courtesies and whatever advantages it has to offer.

The Chicago Veterans of the War with Spain are making their headquarters at the Auditorium of Chicago Commons.

The gladdest happening of the past month at the Commons was the opening of the playground. Into the little yard provided with swings, teeter boards, horizontal bar, quoit and bean bag games, the little ones have gathered, some days two hundred strong.

Their joyous shouts and happy faces repay with interest compounded for the cost and labor of its preparation and superintendence. To make glad the life of little children surely this is a commerce that makes all parties to it rich.

#### Mrs. Simkhovitch on City Noises

To the Editor of the Chicago Commons,

Dear Sir:—

Since you have been so kind as to open the columns of your paper to any stray Settlement contributor, I should like very much to write just a few words in regard to the noise of our great cities.

I live on the corner of Second Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, one of the noisiest places, I suppose, in the world. At all events, I have never been in a noisier place, except at a recent visit to a girls' college dining hall. Two lines of elevated roads cross at right angles, and three lines of trolley cars meet at the corner. Thirty-fourth Street is moreover a general thoroughfare for all the Long Island railroad traffic, as well as the highway for all the Island market produce that lumbers in at early morning hours. A big milk concern is situated opposite the House with adjoining stables, and if the market garden teams should cease for a moment, the milk carts allow of no pause in the procession. A piano factory directly behind the house keeps up an untuneful wail in the morning hours, an excellent alarm clock to wake up any stray sleepy residents.

In winter we can sacrifice hygiene, and shut the windows and get what one of the minor poets calls a "hissing silence"—but in the summer time,

we open the windows, shout, and grow deaf.

The worst of it is that although we fancy we live at an especially noisy corner, there are many other places in New York quite as noisy if not more so.

The fact is, big cities get noisier and noisier all the time.

Some of us think we don't mind it, but does it seem irrational to believe that shouting to kindergarten children doesn't fit in with the rest of the kindergarten theory and practice?

If the thing we regret most among tenement house children is the increasing nervousness occasioned by the complex conditions of tenement house life, is not noise a very considerable factor?

What I want to ask is why should we not all unite and see if there are not some practical steps that can be taken to mitigate to some extent at least the horrors of city noises.

Would it not be a good idea if in each great city where there are Settlements—in Chicago, in New York, in Boston, in San Francisco—some one Settlement should make it one of its duties this winter to investigate the matter thoroughly? The Boards of Health have as a general thing large discretionary powers to abate public nuisances and there are special city ordinances that cover special nuisances such as the carriage of heavy steel girders on the public highways, etc. The cries of hucksters, proper pavements, regulations in regard to steam whistles, rubber tires, oiling of tracks—all these suggest that it would really be a useful thing to bring together all the information there is about city noises and their remedies.

We shall be glad at our House to investigate the question for New York this coming season. Perhaps Chicago, Boston and San Francisco are so quiet they don't need to be worried about!

Yours sincerely,

Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch.

Friendly Aid Settlement,

248 East Thirty-fourth St., New York City.

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**The Subscription Price is Fifty Cents a Year.** (Two Shillings, English; 2.50 francs, French—foreign stamps accepted.) Postpaid to any State or Country. Six copies to one address for \$2.50. Send check, draft, P. O. money order, cash or stamps, *not above 5-cent denomination*, at our risk.

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